

**REMARKS**

The present communication responds to the Office Action dated June 6, 2006. In that Office Action, the Examiner required restriction between:

Group I (claims 1-32, 45-57, and 63), drawn to a method of reducing microbial levels on the carcass of an animal; and

Group II (claims 33-44 and 58-62), drawn to a method of and apparatus for reducing microbial levels on an animal hid.

In order to advance prosecution of the application, the Applicant herewith elects the Group I (claims 1-32, 45-57 and 63), without traverse. Accordingly, please cancel claims 33-44 and 58-62 without prejudice.

It is believed that no additional fees are due in connection with this communication. However, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 04-1420.

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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